number of new areas such as Information Technology, Tourism, Financial Services, etc. With a view to bring about advancement and development of women, a National Policy on Empowerment of Women, 2001 has been adopted with the goal:—

(i) To create an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential;

(ii) The *de-jure* and *de-facto* enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres political, economic, social, cultural and civil;

(iii) Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation;

(iv) Equal access to women to quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office etc.;

(v) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process.

Further, a network of Institutes, both under the Central and State Sector have been set up for extending skill facilities to women in different areas, including Electronics Computer Operator and Programming Assistant, Instrument Mechanics, etc.

Special Programme for KBK Region

2676. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has sanctioned two special programmes for KBK zone in Orissa under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the projects that would be taken up with this aid; and

(c) the details of 100 per cent Centrally aided projects sanctioned for KBK to boost economy of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a Special Plan for the undivided Kalahandi-

Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY).

(b) and (c) The Special Plan for the KBK districts aims at tackling the problems of drought proofing, livelihood support, food security, connectivity, health, education, etc. as per local priorities and it is being funded on 100 per cent Central assistance basis.

Gloomy picture of Indian economy

2677. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank Development Policy Review's assessment has recently painted a gloom and doom picture of Indian economy;

(b) if so, the detail of their findings; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The World Bank in its development policy review entitled 'India: Sustaining Reform, Reducing Poverty' released on July 14, 2003, while acknowledging that India's growth over the past two decades has been one of the world's highest among large countries, has expressed concern over the deterioration in the fiscal position of the Centre and States. The Review observed that rising deficits and worsening public expenditure composition has limited the prospect for accelerating growth and poverty reduction.

(c) The Government is conscious of the need for reduction in fiscal deficit and promoting investment for productive purposes. Fiscal consolidation is one of the five priorities addressed in the Union Budget for 2003-04. The Budget has proposed a number of initiatives, such as, promoting infrastructure development by leveraging public money through private sector participation, promoting private investment and measures aimed at fiscal consolidation. These initiatives, *inter alia*, are expected to have a positive influence on the growth of the economy.